



St Andrew's Parish News

We are a Dynamic Faith Community in the Spirit of the Gospel

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A - 14 & 15 MARCH 2026

OUR PARISH

Parish Office

76 Springs Road
Clayton South VIC 3169
Phone: 9551 5666
Email: claytonsouth@cam.org.au
Tuesday - Friday 10am - 3pm

Mass Times

Saturday: Vigil 6.00pm
Sunday: 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am
Mon - Sat (except Tues): 9.15am
Tues: 7.00pm & Novena to St. Jude

Reconciliation

Saturday: 9.45 to 10.15am

Baptism & Wedding

Please contact the Parish Office

Funeral

Please contact the Parish Office

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest

Fr. Shibu Joseph sac
shibu.joseph@cam.org.au

Parish Team Leader

Linda De Souza (Tues/ Thurs/Fri)
Email: claytonsouth@cam.org.au

Parish Secretary

Smita Pinto (Tue/Wed)
Luisa May - Bookkeeper (Thu)

Youth Co-ordinator

SAYGCS21@gmail.com

St. Andrew's Primary School

Principal: Brian Martin
Phone: 9551 5094
principal@saclaytonsth.catholic.edu.au

School R.E. Co-ordinator

Ange Walsh

ONLINE SERVICES

Website:

www.standrewsclytonsouth.org.au

Daily Reflections:

<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/standrewsparishclaytonsouth

ST. PATRICK'S DAY - TUESDAY 17TH MARCH



On **Tuesday 17 March** the Church celebrates the feast of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. As a missionary bishop, St Patrick devoted his life to preaching the Gospel and bringing many people to the Christian faith. According to tradition, he used the shamrock to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. His life reminds us of the power of faith, perseverance, and trust in God. May his example inspire us to live our faith with joy and to share the Good News with others.

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH - THU 19TH MARCH

Faithful Joseph: Teach us to listen and not be afraid to trust as you did in God's promise. **Loving Joseph:** Teach us to love courageously with a heart that is free and just. **Protector Joseph:** Teach us to protect one another and all that belongs to God. **Dreamer Joseph:** Teach us to dream a world where all are neighbours; a vision illuminated by God's light. **Teacher Joseph:** Teach us to keep the Word of God close to our hearts, and to proclaim it in word and action. **Gentle Joseph:** Teach us to be gentle with our power and strong in our tenderness. **Parent Joseph:** Teach us to be for all persons a living lesson of goodness and truth - a blessing for all generations to come. Amen.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON FRIDAYS IN LENT AFTER 9.15AM MASS & AT 6.30 PM FOLLOWED BY MASS

HEALING MASS - WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH

You are warmly invited to our Healing Mass with anointing of the sick on Wednesday, 25 March at 9:15 am. This Mass will be a special time to pray for physical, emotional, and spiritual healing. All are welcome to join in this prayerful celebration and experience the comfort and peace of God's loving presence.



CONGRATULATIONS FIRST RECONCILIATION CANDIDATES

We congratulate the children of our parish who will be celebrating their First Reconciliation this week. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they take this important step in their faith journey and experience God's love and mercy in this beautiful Sacrament.

HARMONY WEEK - 16TH MARCH TO 22ND MARCH

St. Andrew's Parish, Clayton South is committed to the safety, wellbeing & dignity of all children, young people & vulnerable adults.

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

"A COMMUNITY THAT EMBRACES, CELEBRATES AND EMPOWERS ALL TO LIVE AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS"

PARISH NEWS

HARMONY WEEK - EVERYONE BELONGS



Australia is one of the world's most successful multicultural countries and our cultural diversity is at the heart of who we are.

This year Australia celebrates Harmony Week from the 16-22 March.

This is a wonderful time to celebrate the rich diversity of cultures that make up our Catholic community, and share the message that everyone belongs. Harmony Week coincides with the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Harmony Week is a celebration of our diverse identity, promoting inclusiveness, respect, and belonging for everyone, from First Nations people to our newest community members. It highlights that despite our diverse backgrounds, we are bonded by shared Australian values such as freedom, fairness, and equal opportunity.

Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week as traditionally, it signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

For more information [READ HERE](#)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

Adam D'Souza, Leroy Noronha, Ryan James Ahaana Bhardwaj, Ulrica D'Souza, Matteo Juanilw, Jackson Au

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM AND MINISTRY COORDINATORS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH 6.30PM

All Parish Pastoral Team members and Ministry / Deputy Coordinators are invited to attend the meeting.

CHURCH WORKING BEE ON SATURDAY MARCH 28

Volunteers are needed for the church working bee on Saturday 28th March from 10am to 12noon to prepare the church for Holy Week services. If you can offer a helping hand, please put your name down on the sheet kept in the church foyer. Thank you.



HOLY WEEK DONATIONS Donations are invited to help with the preparation of our Holy Week and Easter liturgies, including decorations, flowers, and candles for the church etc. Your generosity will help make these sacred celebrations prayerful and meaningful for our parish community. Kindly contact the parish office for details. Thank you.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT St Andrew's Primary School is having a Family Fun Night fundraiser event on 27 March 2026. This year our fundraising efforts will directly support improvements to the school playground, which needs enhancements to create a safer space for students to play and connect.

We are currently seeking donations of gift cards, merchandise, services or other prizes that can be used for our raffle. Any contribution big or small will be greatly appreciated. Please contact: pandf@saclaytonsth.catholic.edu.au or 0401 451 587

LENTEN REFLECTIONS Lent is an important season in the Church's liturgical year. The program will run every Thursday at 7.00 p.m. in the Parish House, to reflect on the Readings and prepare ourselves for Jesus' death and resurrection and experience true transformation in our lives during this powerful season. You are all most welcome to join us. Should you have further queries, please contact Ean Brewty on 0457 527 633 or ebrewty@hotmail.com.

NEXT BAPTISM PREPARATION NIGHT - WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL 2026 AT 7.30PM IN THE PARISH HOUSE. TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE.

ST ANDREW'S PARISH FIRST TWO SOCIAL EVENTS 2026

Save The Date
1. Mother's Day Bake Sale - 9 & 10 May 2026
2. Parish Luncheon - Sunday 19 July 2026 LUNCHEON

INVITATION OPEN TO EVERYONE

More volunteers are invited to express their interest to assist in any small or big tasks with our first two social events for 2026. You can be part of any one event - Mother's Day Bake Sale OR the Parish Luncheon.

Some of the tasks involved are to plan, execute, assist in leading that particular event with the help of other volunteers. If you need further information, please contact the parish office via phone or email. Come and join the team!

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

St. Andrew's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing & dignity of all children, young people & vulnerable adults.

CHILDREN MUST HAVE ADULT SUPERVISION AT ALL TIMES



WEEKLY CALENDAR 16 MAR 2026

Monday 16 March

09.15am Mass
07.00pm Choir Practice (11am Choir)

Tuesday 17 March - St Patrick

10.30am Friendship Group - St Patrick's Day
04.00pm Sacramental Program
07.00pm Mass / Novena to St Jude

Wednesday 18 March

09.15am Mass
06.30pm PPT / Ministry Coordinators Meeting
07.00pm Choir Practice (6pm Choir)

Thursday 19 March - St Joseph

09.15am Mass / Reconciliation Reflection Day
12.00pm Funeral Mass—Maria Gomes
06.00pm Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation
07.00pm Lenten Reflection Program
07.30pm Choir Practice (8am Choir)

Friday 20 March

09.15am Mass / Stations of the Cross
06.30pm Stations of the Cross / Mass

Saturday 21 March

09.15am Mass
10.30am Choir Practice (9.30am Choir)
06.00pm Mass - Welcome Rite
07.15pm Good Shepherd Servant Comm—P & W

Sunday 22 March - 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

08.00am Mass
09.30am Mass
11.00am Mass

REMEMBERING OUR COMMUNITY

Pray For Healing: Candice Walker, Alexander, Felipe & Anne, Dom Carlos Ximenes Belo, Oe Moe Jong, Eugene Roberts, Alyson, Alex D'Cruz, Ting Chung Sing, Lucy Lena Sing, Mary D'souza, Anna.

Recently Deceased: Maria Gomes, Rosemary Smith.

Birthday Remembrance: Cyprian Noronha.

Monthly Remembrance: Mildred Seixas, Frank D'Cruz & Joyce Jordon.

Death Anniversaries: Henri Albert, Maya Gayen, Clifford Calmiano, Loreto Pineda Nallas, Marilena Zanini, Tess Garduce—Biligan, Jun Biligan, Josette Dequina, Lilly Schammel, Edna Marshall, Souls of Deceased members of D'Cruz & Nation Families / Brewty & Weston Families, All Forgotten Souls & Souls in Purgatory.

ROSTERS

THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

14 & 15 MARCH 2026	MASS TIMES			
	Saturday	Sunday		
	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am	11.00am
Altar Servers	Alexia Eva Sophia		Alivia Evan	
Comm	Jenny C	Victor T	Terry M	Maria B
Readers	Janet D Pearl B	Marcelle J Neddie A	Daniel G Rodolfo G	Joanna D Beatriz C
Special Ministers	Michael M Xavier F Cora D Julianne M	Rima J Atanasio J Marguerita Riekie V	Angela H Rodolfo G Jan Van R Linda M	Ean B Rodney N Rada P Erlinda D
Welcomers	Xavier F	George V	Anna W	Joanna D
Children's Liturgy	Joanna D Robin A	No C. L.	Ishdha P Angel J	No C. L.
Altar L.	Sheila Francis			
Counters Team	Marian J, Maureen H, Eugene G, Peter F, Basil H, Glenda L, Laurence Bernard.			

THE 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

21 & 22 MARCH 2026	MASS TIMES			
	Saturday	Sunday		
	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am	11.00am
Altar Servers				
Comm	Edwin B	Jennie D	Oka G	Beatriz C
Readers	Esther T Lota F	Victor T Lynette F	Jan Van R Volunteer	Volunteer Volunteer
Special Ministers	Cheryl R Anne L F Jenny C Volunteer	Marguerita Marlene E Marcelle J Victor T	Hanna T Carol N Linda M Rodolfo G	Beata G Pat I Linda K Gloria A
Welcomers	Pearl B	Santosh S	Carol N	Claire R
Children's Liturgy	Laurence B Dona P	No C. L.	Helena N Annette S	No C. L.
Altar L.	Claudette Chung			
Counters Team	Marian J, Maureen H, Eugene G, Peter F, Basil H, Glenda L, Laurence Bernard.			

MASS ROSTERS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2026 The following Mass Volunteers are needed:

1. Welcomer for Easter Vigil—4th April 7.30pm Mass
2. Reader for Easter Sunday 5th April 8.30am Mass
3. Collectors for Easter Sunday 5 April 10.30am Mass
4. Commentator for Easter Sunday 5 April 8.30am Mass

If you can assist with any of the above, please email: claytonsouth@cam.org.au



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**A WELL WISHER FOR THE PARISH
 OF ST. ANDREW'S**

From the depths of my nothing-
 ness I prostrate myself before
 you O most Sacred Divine Ador-
 able Heart of Jesus to pay to
 you all the homage of love praise
 and adoration in my power.
 Amen

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**THE 04TH SUNDAY
OF LENT - YEAR A
15TH MARCH 2026**



FIRST READING 1 Samuel 16:1.6-7.10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

RESP PSALM Ps 22

**(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION JOHN 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL John 9:1.6-9.13-17.34-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbors and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

SUNDAY REFLECTION

Spittle and Mud: Our Lord, by the power of his word alone, could have healed the disease of this man, blind since birth. Yet, he made a paste with spittle and put it over the eyes of the blind man. Just as God would have moistened the dust of the earth to shape the first human being, for the blind man, it was as though he had been created anew.

God rarely works by telepathy but has a preferred way of working through the elements of creation, especially in the Sacraments. So, with the Anointing of the Sick, pressing olive oil onto the forehead and hands of the sick or dying symbolizes the Holy Spirit entering the very pores of the sick person, relieving that person of undue anxiety and giving strength for the next stage of life. This sacrament is a formal ritual of healing by the Church. But there are a million informal ways, such as putting one's arm around someone who is lonely or unwell, which are sacramental to the world.

We could pause for a moment that we might go into the world like the man healed by Jesus, eyes wide open to see where we might exercise the healing power of the Lord of the Gospel.



© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT – 15 MAR MANAINI FROM FIJI

- There are many occasions when we ask the question why and can't find the answer for which we are looking. Why did we miss out on a job?

Why did someone we love get cancer? Why can't we find a place to live that we can afford? Why do some days seem so difficult? It is good to sit with our confusion and even grief. It is good to share it with the Lord who loves us so tenderly. But sometimes we have to step aside from the question why did this happen? It may be better to start with where can I go from here? What small steps will enable me to face the future in a positive spirit?

Today's readings touch upon these issues. In the Gospel, Jesus encounters a person who was born blind. The bystanders want to know why this happened. They think it must be because either he or his parents did something wrong. They are looking backwards. Jesus prefers to look forwards. He says, 'he was born blind so that the works of God may be displayed in him.' In other words, his blindness presents opportunities for growth, not a pretext for blame. The letter to the Ephesians similarly reminds us that we are on a journey from darkness to light.

This week, Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, draws us into the story of Manaini, a 44-year-old mother and subsistence farmer in remote northern Fiji. She has transformed her family's life through food processing and organic farming, thanks to a Caritas-supported project. Once reliant on more store-bought food and prone to food waste, she now produces home-made flours, dried foods, and sells produce and baked goods from local crops. Her passion for learning has made her a key player in her community, working with others to embrace more sustainable, empowering ways of living. Thanks to the generosity of the Australian Catholic community, hundreds of thousands of people such as Manaini are finding an answer to the question, 'where can we go from here.'

If you wish to donate online to Project Compassion 2026 this year, St Andrew's Parish has a parish fundraising platform:

<https://www.projectcompassion.org.au/fundraisers/claytonsouthcatholicparish> or use

the QR code (using your mobile), which takes you directly to Clayton South Catholic Parish donate page. Thank you.



PIETY STALL AT ST ANDREW'S

Come visit our Parish Piety Stall after Mass and explore our new arrivals! It includes beautiful religious items, rosaries, medals, prayer cards, Bibles, and gifts for all occasions. We have a lovely selection perfect for First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Baptisms, or simply to enrich your personal prayer life. Your purchase supports the parish and helps spread the faith in simple ways!!



PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen

GIVING via QR CODE To financially support our parish, you can make a donation by scanning this QR code which is unique to St. Andrew's Church, Clayton South. It will give you direct access to the CDF pay webpage by following a few easy steps. The QR code is also displayed in the Church foyer. Thank you.



FINANCE



St. Andrew's Catholic Parish

We are a Dynamic Faith Community in the Spirit of the Gospel

HOLY WEEK & EASTER PROGRAM 2026

Saturday 14 th March	Departure: 7am	Lenten Pilgrimage to Bacchus Marsh
Wednesday 25 th March	09.15am Mass for the sick	Anointing within Mass & Holy Communion to the housebound (<i>Kindly contact Parish Office to register</i>)
PALM SUNDAY		
Sat & Sunday 28 th & 29 th March	06.00pm 08.00am 09.30am 11.00am	Blessing of the Palms, Procession Mass in the Church
EASTER TRIDUUM – in School Hall		
Holy Thursday 02 nd April	07.30pm	<u>NO MORNING MASS</u> Mass of the Lord's Supper in the school hall followed by Repose of the Altar in the Church. Silent Adoration until midnight in the Church
Good Friday 03 rd April	10.00am 03.00pm	Stations of the Cross – Bald Hill Park (<i>PTO for details</i>) Commemoration of the Passion & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ in the School Hall
Holy Saturday 04 th April	07.30pm	Easter Vigil Mass in the School Hall
Easter Sunday 05 th April	08.30am 10.30am	Mass in the Church Mass in the Church
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY		
Divine Mercy Feast 12 th April	1pm – 3pm 03.15pm	Confessions / Holy Rosary / Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Celebrant: Fr. Elmer Ibarra SVD Divine Mercy Mass followed by afternoon tea.



ST. ANDREW'S PARISH CLAYTON SOUTH

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS



The custom of walking the Stations of the Cross is a revered devotion which has its origins in the early Christian pilgrimages to the holy places of Jerusalem.

"...as we walk with Jesus, and believe in Jesus, and become friends and companions with him as Saviour and friend, may we grow in a greater faith in him, and also to love and care for one another."

- ♦ **START & CONCLUSION: ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH**
- ♦ **WALKING TO BALD HILL PARK FROM 10AM**
- ♦ **STATIONS AND REFLECTIONS ARE LED BY FAMILIES**
- ♦ **KINDLY BRING THE JUBILEE CROSS ALONG**

GOOD FRIDAY
10AM

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US IN THIS JOURNEY



TO MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF REVERENCE AND SOLEMNITY, PLEASE TURN OFF AND REFRAIN FROM USING PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS